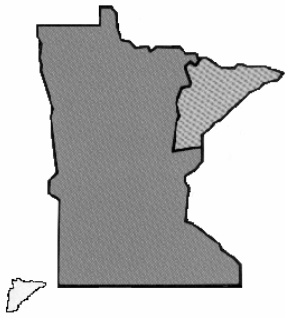




Newsletter of the 1854 Treaty Authority

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February 2010



“And such of them as reside in the territory hereby ceded, shall have the right to hunt and fish therein, until otherwise ordered by the President”

Article 11, 1854 Treaty

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Where We Have Been and Where We Are Going!

Each year, we undertake a “Strategic Planning” process (since 1997) which culminates in an “Annual Meeting” whereby we present to the 1854 Board of Directors our accomplishments from the past year and our plans for the upcoming year. They say, “If you don’t know where you’re going, any road will do.” It is our goal to avoid directionless activities.



Therefore, we will be presenting such information in this issue of the newsletter. Hopefully you will find this useful and interesting information and it also affords us an opportunity to show you all the work we actually do here. We do not have a large staff, but we have an efficient and energetic staff. I believe that we get a lot of work done and as the Ceded Territory encompasses some 5 million acres, our work area is huge to say the least. It has always been our premise that we may never be the largest natural resource organization, but we can strive to be the best.

I have also had the privilege of directing an organization that has had minimal turnover, thus many of the staff have been here for many years. The staff works here because they want to be here and truly believe in the mission (see page 2 for our mission statement) of the organization. I can honestly say that we are actively engaged and at the forefront of the issues that need to be addressed in regards to the reserved rights and resources of the Treaty of 1854. We have come a long ways, but also have a long ways to go.

If you have questions about anything in this newsletter, or any of our programs and/or activities, please do not hesitate to contact any of the staff (contact info is on last page of this newsletter).

Sonny Myers - Executive Director

“MISSION STATEMENT”

The 1854 Treaty Authority shall provide an inter-Tribal natural resource program to ensure that the rights secured to member Indian tribes by treaties of the United States to hunt, fish and gather within the 1854 Ceded Territory shall be protected, preserved, and enhanced for the benefit of present and future members of member Indian tribes in a manner consistent with the character of such rights, through provision of services.

“ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS”

- GOAL:** Provide an organization capable of delivering PROGRAMS to its qualified participants.
- GOAL:** Protect, preserve, and enhance the off-reservation hunting, fishing, and gathering RIGHTS of the Grand Portage and Bois Forte Bands of the Lake Superior Chippewa.
- GOAL:** Protect, preserve, and enhance the trust RESOURCES of the 1854 Treaty Area.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS - 2009

While “pushing paper” may not be the most glorious aspect of any organization, without administrative support, nothing would ever get done. The administrative staff takes care of the day to day business so that the programs and services can be implemented.

BIA Contract - Submitted all Required Financial and Narrative reports. The contract is the primary funding mechanism for our enforcement and natural resource programs. Basically, we sign a contract which spells out the services that we will provide to the Bands on behalf of the BIA and they in return provide funding to accomplish the contract objectives. The money is actually appropriated through congress annually and administered/distributed through the BIA to the Authority. As this is a Federal contract, there are a myriad of requirements that we must adhere to and we ensure that we meet those requirements every year.

Financial Processes:

- * Conducted an Annual Audit (as required by contract) and received a clean bill of health. We have been determined to be a “low risk auditee” which is a good thing.
- * Submitted all Required Financial Reports for all applicable Grants and/or Agreements. Many programs and projects are funded by various grants (we’re always looking for ways to fund projects and are regularly submitting grant proposals). Again, there are many requirements for each grant and/or agreement and we ensure that we are in compliance.
- * Implemented In-House Payroll Process - we used to outsource this process.

(continued on page 3)

ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS (cont)

Policies and Procedures - Revised the 1854 Personnel and Financial Polices. We regularly (every 4-5 years or as needed) review these and other internal polices to ensure they are up to speed. Not that exciting, but part of doing business, and ensuring the organization functions in an orderly, efficient, and legal manner.

Organizational Management Plan - we conducted a comprehensive Band member Survey (thanks for all those that participated) and compiled the results. In order to gather as much input as possible, we also conducted community meetings. This is quite an exhaustive and time consuming process and we attempt to undertake it every 10 years or so. The information gathered really is the basis for our management decisions and day to day activities. If you are interested in looking at the results (it's interesting!) either contact us and we can mail you a copy or download it from our website.

Public Outreach - the goals of our outreach are to inform people of who we are, what we do, and what we provide (by way of services). In 2009, we.....

- * Launched new 1854 Website - hope you checked it out and found it useful.
- * Continued to publish the newsletter.
- * Conducted numerous outreach activities which are too abundant to list here. We usually highlight these in the "staff stuff" section of the newsletter.
- * MN State Fair - we developed an Inter-Tribal information booth that was showcased in the education building at the state fair. The theme of the booth was "Moose" and we had many interesting conversations. Everyone loves a moose!

ADMINISTRATIVE PLANS - 2010

Our primary focus for the upcoming year, besides ensuring the day to day business needs of the organization are addresses, will focus in two area.

General Housekeeping - we are going to revamp the office somewhat. Kind of a mild "extreme makeover." We have now been in the same location for many years and it is time to do some cleaning, painting, carpet replacement, get rid of the junk we all accumulate. We also plan to spiff up the front office some so we can have more visual display and availability of materials (which relates to our other activity).

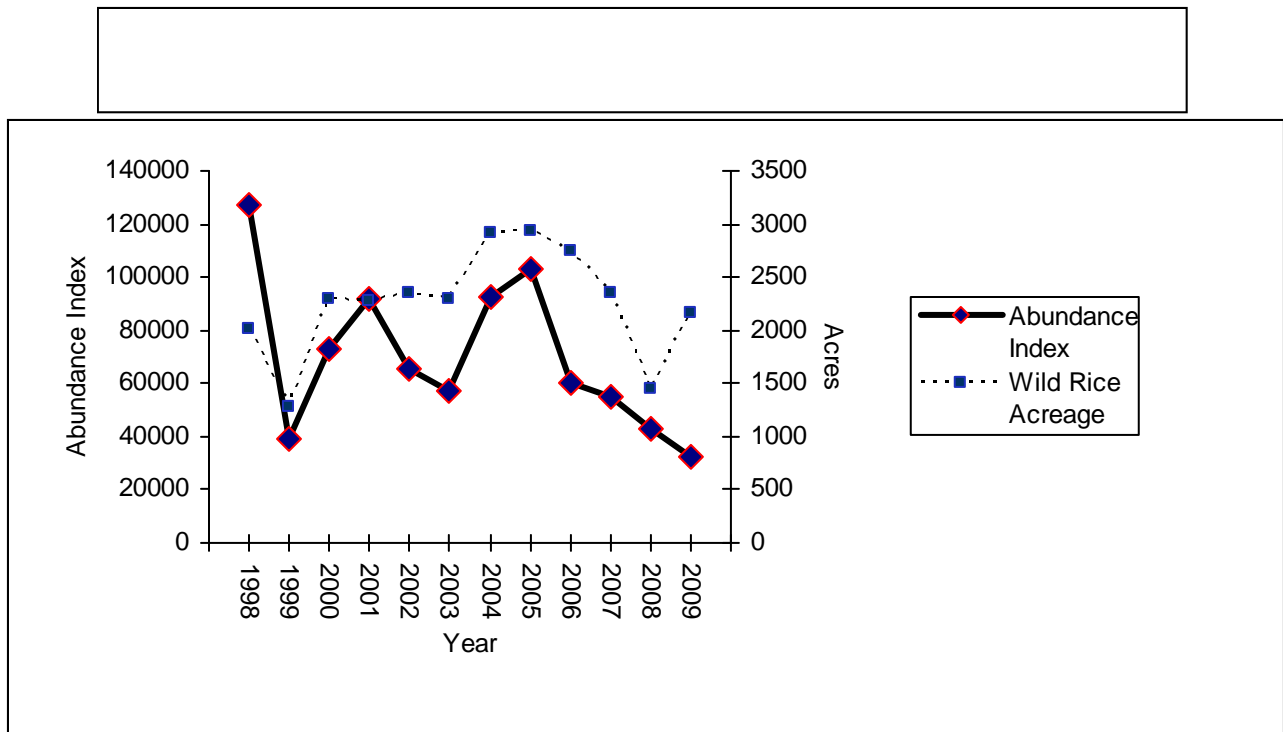
Public Outreach - one thing that stuck out in the survey results was the need to enhance available materials (i.e. maps, activity brochures, etc), so as to make people aware of the opportunities which are available. The staff will soon be meeting and brainstorming on what types of information might be helpful and useful. If you have something in mind, shoot an e-mail to us or give us a call.

We are also planning on upgrading our website to try and make it even more useful and user friendly. Again, if you have any ideas, please contact us.

WILD RICE BITS & PIECES.....

2009 Wild Rice Season Overview

In 2009, wild rice success across the 1854 Ceded Territory was generally fair. Some good crops could be found, and other areas were disappointments. The graph below outlines total acreage and abundance index (a combination of acreage and density) on a group of waters from 1998-2009. The trends are the most important thing to look at, with 2009 a down year for rice production. The full report can be found on our website or by contacting the office.



However, abundance only tells part of the story. Rice was a bit late in ripening in 2009, but perfect September weather allowed for ideal harvest conditions. Reports indicated that harvesters in general had a successful year across the Ceded Territory. The 1854 Treaty Authority cooperated in posting of harvest dates at Big Rice Lake and Vermilion River in 2009.

Big Rice Lake

Even with a poor crop in 2009, harvesters did report some success this past season. With generally poor rice crops on Big Rice Lake in recent years, discussions continue among a number of partners on the best path forward. Some efforts have been made in the past several years in an attempt to restore wild rice success, and control pickerelweed which has expanded in the lake. Management actions have included water level increases, water level decreases, winter drawdowns and freezing, and winter snow plowing (seems to knock back pickerelweed). In our eyes, we need a plan of action, and then work to make it happen. Through discussions with MN Department of Natural Resources, a management history of the lake will be compiled by this spring, followed by a management plan completed by fall 2010. We will work to have input on the plan. Stay tuned.... (WR Bits & Pieces cont next page)

Wild Rice Management Workgroup

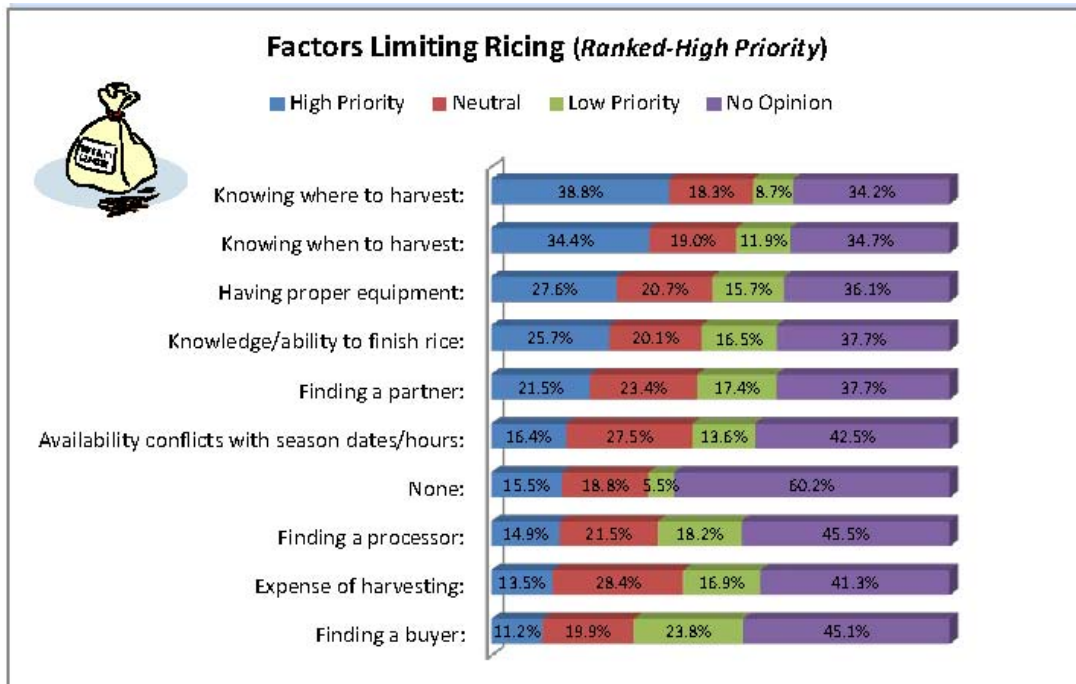
An ongoing workgroup made of tribal, federal, and state agencies along with other interested parties has been formed to address a variety of wild rice issues. Topics include harvest regulations, education and outreach, management issues, and research. The workgroup provides an opportunity to cooperate and keep momentum forward to work to the benefit of wild rice. The 1854 Treaty Authority has and will remain actively involved. There may be some state legislation moving through the process this spring which could have an affect on wild rice management. We plan on being engaged and we will keep you up to date on what happens.

Boy Scouts Experience Wild Rice Harvesting!



Boy Scout Troop #25 out of Duluth hit the water on the Vermilion River in September to try their hand at wild rice harvesting. In addition to learning how to harvest, the troop was able to raise some money to support their trip to the National Jamboree in the Washington D.C. area this coming summer. The 1854 Treaty Authority purchased the rice, which in turn was seeded in two locations for the benefit of waterfowl. It was a good cooperative effort, and thanks to the Scouts for their hard work.

Please prioritize the factors limiting your ability or interest in harvesting wild rice in the 1854 Ceded Territory.
From 2009 Band Member Survey



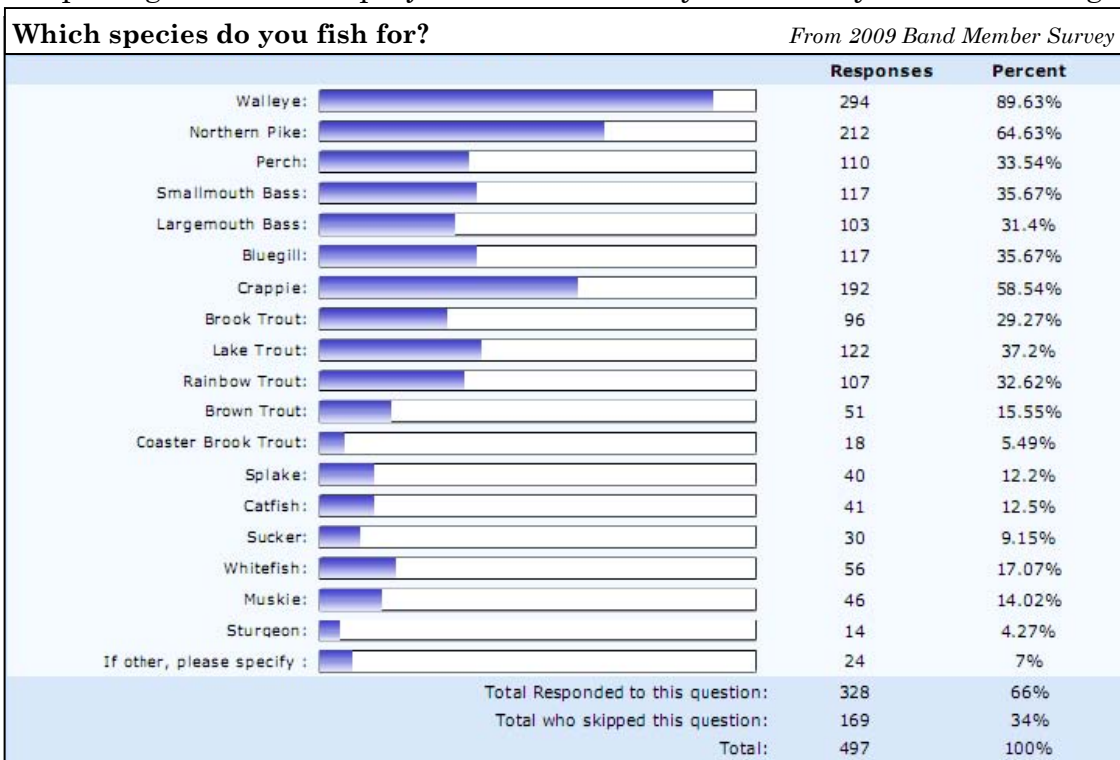
FISHERIES HIGHLIGHTS - 2009

While we enjoy doing our fisheries survey work each year, 2009 was even more enjoyable than usual. Thanks to a grant, we were able to purchase a state of the art electrofishing boat late in 2008. The boat received a lot of use in both spring and fall this past year. A number of features on the new vessel make it a much safer and efficient platform for conducting our annual assessments. Thanks to cooperative help from the Fond du Lac Resource Management Division and the U.S. Forest Service fisheries crew, we were able to conduct spring walleye spawning assessments on 3 lakes and continue annual monitoring of reproductive success on nearly 2 dozen lakes during September. We also wrapped up final reporting on our grant funded juvenile sturgeon work in the St. Louis River during 2009.

FISHERIES PLANS - 2010

As last year's survey of band members showed, walleye remain the primary species of interest for most of our constituents. In keeping with that, we will continue to monitor walleye populations on a number of lakes during 2010. Additionally, we are seeking grant money to fund a fish passage restoration project in Lake County. Currently a road crossing with perched cul-

verts is preventing upstream fish passage in Windy Creek, a connector between Windy, Tee, and Silver Island lakes. We know that walleye movement occurs between these lakes to some degree and that the current situation is likely blocking some fish movement during the year.



If we are successful in obtaining funding, we will be working with the U.S. Forest Service to renovate the Lake County 7 road crossing to restore fish passage. We will also be pursuing funding to conduct monitoring for invasive species and to initiate sampling for evidence of successful lake sturgeon spawning in the lower St. Louis River. Finally, another fisheries related issue that we will continue to work on in 2010 is representation on the Lake Superior Committee, a group that helps guide many of the fisheries research and management activities of agencies around the lake.

MOOSE HIGHLIGHTS - 2009

Moose remain a high priority for the Resource Management Division. In addition to participating in the annual aerial census, we continued to work with our partners in monitoring moose mortality rates with the radio-collared study animals. We also were a member of the Moose Advisory Committee, a group that was convened to provide recommendations to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as they develop their legislatively mandated moose management plan. The committee completed its task of developing recommendations in July, and presented the summary document to the DNR in August 2009. At this point, the DNR is working on drafting their management plan and we expect to see a document before the current legislative session is completed. Finally, in 2009 we were able to partner with the Grand Portage Band and the University of Minnesota Duluth in receiving a grant that will allow some new moose research to take place at the Grand Portage reservation over the next 2 years.

MOOSE PLANS - 2010

Moose related activity will increase in 2010. The annual census was wrapped up in mid-January, and while results have not been officially released yet, it appears the population estimate will be down somewhat from 2009. We'll put more information about the survey in the next newsletter.

There are still about 45 moose with radio collars located in Lake County, and those animals are being monitored weekly for survival with funding to continue this monitoring through 2011. We also initiated a moose research project at Grand Portage that began in early February. Nine moose were captured and fitted with GPS collars capable of obtaining a location every 15 minutes, along with recording activity levels and ambient temperature every minute. The focus of this research is to investigate detailed habitat use of moose in relation to temperature with the hope of determining which habitats are used by moose during times of thermal stress (either too hot or too cold) and whether or not they are physically active or resting during those periods. This will be very valuable information for land management decisions to ensure that we are creating and maintaining the habitat types needed by moose to make it past difficult environmental conditions.

We are also partnering with UMD, National Park Service, Fond du Lac, U.S. Geological Survey, and the DNR to conduct a similar project at Voyageur's National Park beginning in February and in Lake County beginning in 2011. We are also actively seeking funding and partners to conduct wildlife habitat enhancement projects throughout the ceded territory, with the primary focus being on moose. If we are able to obtain this funding we will be able to implement restoration activities driven by information generated by the GPS collared moose referenced earlier.

2009 Moose Harvest	
Permits Issued:	55
Bulls Taken:	13
Cows Taken:	2
Total:	15
Success rate:	27%

CEDED LANDS WOLF PROJECT UPDATE

Back in April 2007, we initiated a three year grant-funded research project to study wolves living in the space between urban and more wilderness areas. In this urban/rural interface, increasing road densities, greater numbers of residences, and more recreational pressure on nearby natural areas by residents lead to a greater potential for wolf-human conflicts. Until now little had been done to study how wolves respond to the challenges of living in areas with greater human densities.

2009 marked the third year of fieldwork for the ceded lands wolf project and resulted in several additional GPS collars being fitted to wolves in the 1854 Ceded Territory. Data collected on wolf movements, territoriality, and pack sizes are being used to estimate wolf density in our study area north of Duluth and, alongside existing data, will help us to better manage the wolf on ceded lands once this species is permanently removed from federal protection in the Western Great Lakes region and management responsibility is returned to the Tribes and States of the area.

Wolf Project Highlights to Date:

- * Wolf project biologists have captured 23 wolves during approx. 1,300 trap nights on public and private lands to the north of Duluth.

- * Ten wolves have been fitted with state-of-the-art GPS collars that track their daily movements and send the near-real time data to us via e-mail.

- * More than 3,200 wolf locations have been recorded using GPS collars, resulting in the delineation of six pack territories, ranging in size from 16 to 61 square miles.

- * GPS technology allowed us to track a wolf as it dispersed from its natal pack in search of a new territory near Cass Lake, more than 175 miles away in just under three weeks.

- * This technology also enabled us to follow the movements of a lone wolf for 15 months as it traveled extensively throughout our study area weaving in and out of four known pack territories, and to document several short-term exploratory movements by this wolf in which it traveled more than 50 miles during a 48 hour period.

- * In addition, wolves have been monitored from the air at least 25 times over the past three years to perform signal checks, record locations, and conduct pack counts during the winter months.

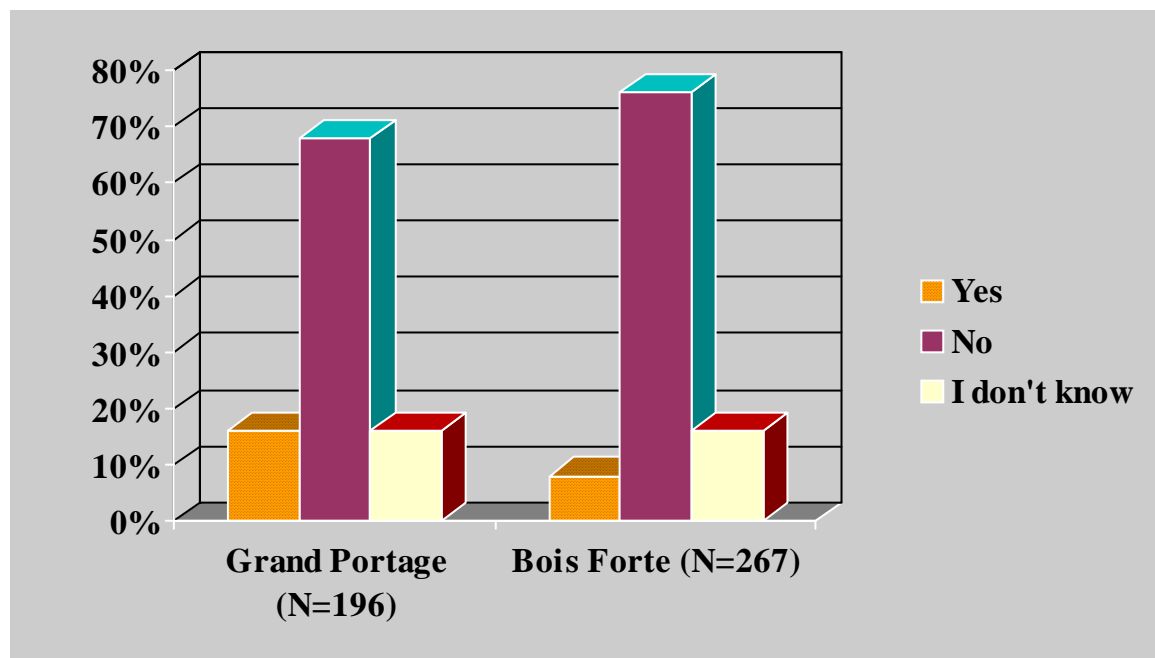
- * Blood, ticks, and feces collected from wolves have been used to screen for diseases and

parasites, while necropsy examinations of dead wolves have revealed important causes of mortality (e.g. mange) in wild wolves in our study area.

- * According to a survey of all enrolled Grand Portage and Bois Forte Band members conducted in spring 2009, two-thirds of all Band members surveyed favored a more conservative wolf management approach in the 1854 Ceded Territory.

Wolf Project Goals for 2010:

- * Continue monitoring wolves collared on ceded lands and conduct winter pack counts.
- * As funding allows, resume wolf trapping and collaring activities on ceded lands in an effort to track wolves that reside in areas next to known pack territories in our study area.
- * Use Band member input and direction from the 1854 Board of Directors (comprised of the Grand Portage and Bois Forte tribal councils) to formulate a wolf management plan for the 1854 Ceded Territory. This plan which would take effect when the wolf in the Western Great Lakes area is finally removed from the federal list of threatened and endangered species and wolf management responsibility is returned to the Tribes and States of the region.



If it were legal, would you hunt or trap a wolf in the Ceded Territory.

From 2009 Band Member Survey

2009 ENFORCEMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Routine Patrol - The majority of enforcement time is spent patrolling the woods and waters of the 1854 Treaty Area and interacting with members during certain busy times of the years (i.e. moose/deer season, trapping, etc). In addition to those primary duties, the enforcement division also participates in various activities, such as...

Border Security - a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was developed with Cook County enabling 1854 Officers to participate in patrol of the US/Canadian border. This initiative is part of the Homeland Security initiative. In addition to that, we have participated in International Border Enforcement Team (IBET) meetings. Agencies meet regularly to share information and strategies. Agencies involved are local Police Departments, Sheriffs Departments, State Patrol, State DNR, FBI, DEA, US Border Patrol, US Coast Guard, US Fish & Wildlife, US Forest Service, Canadian Provincial Police, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Hells Angels - came to the Carlton, MN area for their annual gathering and we cooperated in a multi-agency policing of this event. It was a very interesting experience!

Fond du Lac Community College - for years we have been part of the law enforcement advisory committee, and this year we were asked to be part of the curriculum committee as well.

MN Tribal Chiefs Conservation Group (8 Tribes) - we were instrumental in organizing with Mille Lacs, White Earth, Red Lake, Leech Lake, Fond du Lac, Bois Forte, and Grand Portage, meetings with the Chief Conservation Officers for information sharing and discussing ways to interact in the future (i.e. shared training).

Equipment Acquisition - through a grant from the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), we were able to acquire new body armor, squad truck, ATV, Night Vision equipment, and some personal watercraft (Jet Skis) to be used for patrol & training.

Training/Public Outreach:

- * All 1854 Officers completed the required Minnesota Police Officer Standards & Trainings Board (MN POST) hours which is required to maintain their Peace Officer licenses.
- * Ralph conducted four (4) classes recognized by the MN POST Board as worthy of accreditation for the mandatory yearly credits required for training. The courses were: Police Photography; Small Aircraft Rescue; Outdoor Survival; and Wilderness First Aid. Enforcement staff from various agencies attended the classes.
- * Snow Machine Safety at Nett Lake, ATV Class at Grand Portage, Nett Lake & Grand Portage Pow Wows, FDL Community College Career Days, Boo at the Zoo. *(cont next page)*

2010 ENFORCEMENT GOALS

Expand Educational Opportunities. We will continue to offer hunter's safety, snow machine and ATV safety classes, but hope to also add watercraft safety (jet ski, canoe, boat), archery classes, netting and fish identification classes, and possibly trapping and wildlife identification classes.

Continue Inter-Agency Cooperation. Stay involved with IBET, Stonegarden, Wildland Fire Protection, and joint enforcement efforts with other enforcement agencies.

Formalize the MN Tribal Chiefs Conservation Alliance: We hope to draw up some By-Laws and formally organize as a group in the next couple of meetings. All the Minnesota Tribes (with Conservation Enforcement) have been invited to attend these meetings.

Search and Pursue Additional Funding for Division.

Enhance Training Capabilities for public and law enforcement agencies. We hope to build on the four courses now offered to law enforcement agencies by 1854 and continue to offer our services to educate the public about Treaty Issues.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

2009 Highlights

The 2009 year has been a very busy one for the environmental department. Numerous environmental studies and reports have come out for review in anticipation for the Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) for the PolyMet, Keetac and Mesabi Nugget Phase II projects. The PolyMet and Keetac EIS's had been released at the end of the 2009 season.

Throughout this time the environmental staff has been at the table with other Tribes, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in drafting the EIS's. Comments from 1854 and other tribal staff have resulted in changes to the EIS process and staff from the Authority has also done some limited water sampling in conjunction with the environmental study review.

2010 Goals

Our primary goal is to secure funding to continue this important work. We have applied for a grant through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) which would continue our current efforts as well as expand our activities to include a water monitoring program. It is important to monitor baseline conditions before projects begin operation, and then any impacts that result. Areas of high interest to the Bands such as fisheries and wild rice waters would be targeted.

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